

Topic 25: Discerning God's Will *Figuring Out What God Wants You to Do*

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2



Transformed by the renewing of the mind

Explore the Text

Paul deals with the fact that when the righteousness of Christ is placed upon us like a cloak, a life of transformation is produced.

Conformed	fashioned, patterned
This world	system
Transformed	changed
The mind	center of logical reasoning, ethical judgement, and moral awareness
To prove	Test, scrutinize, examine

1. Think of a situation in your life that caused you to struggle with what is right and true, or what may be the best course of action for you?

What Is Discernment?

Biblically speaking, discernment is the Spiritual Gift God's gives us to distinguish and decide between that which is true, wise, and good and that which is false, foolish, and evil.

God wants *all* of his children to have and exercise this ability. Consider these passages from Paul's, writings to the Christians in Colossae and Philippi:

“So, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9, esv).

“This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ” (Philippians 1:9-10).

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses spiritual gifts – special God-given abilities for building up the body of Christ. Here we discover some Christians are given a special ability to discern between right and wrong, spiritual truth and spiritual error.

“He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said.” (1 Corinthians 12:10, nlt)

What is True, Wise and Good

Four truths about figuring out what is true, wise, and good

#1. God’s will is discernible.

We can discern his purposes for us. He *wants* us to know his will – so that we can do it!

God desires for us to know his will today. He may not reveal his will for tomorrow, next month, or next year. But he gives us what we need to know now. We see this in the prayer of the psalmist: “Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground” (Psalm 143:10, nasb).

2. Think about our key verse. What become our responsibility in knowing God’s will?

#2. God’s will is good.

So many times, Christians cringe at the phrase “the will of God,” because they equate that with hard or bad things. We assume that if we seek hard after God’s will, we just might find it, and that will involve all sorts of unpleasantness!

Consider the following passages:

“For the lord God is a sun and shield; the lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless” (Psalm 84:11).

“Give thanks to the lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psalm 107:1).

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope’” (Jeremiah 29:11, nlt).

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

3. Give your reflections.

4. Why might people find it hard to believe in God’s love and care for us?

#3. Discerning God’s will requires God’s resources.

These resources include God’s Word, God’s Spirit, as well as other resources.

5. List other resources given to us by God.

6. What resources given to us by God have you used?

#4. Discerning God’s will requires effort on our part.

Much of God’s will for your life is already quite clear.

- We were
 - created for a purpose,
 - called to a purpose,
 - and commanded unto a purpose.
- Our issue is discovering the details
 - How
 - Where
 - When
 - With whom?



Pray

Accept

Let go